

Listing of the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method implemented in a computer system, for clustering a string, the string including a plurality of characters, the method including:
 - identifying R unique n-grams $T_{1...R}$ in the string;
 - for every unique n-gram T_S :
 - if the frequency of T_S in a set of n-gram statistics is not greater than a first threshold:
 - associating the string with a cluster associated with T_S ;
 - otherwise:
 - for every other n-gram T_V in the string $T_{1...R}$, except S:
 - if the frequency of n-gram T_V is greater than the first threshold:
 - if the frequency of n-gram pair T_S-T_V is not greater than a second threshold:
 - associating the string with a cluster associated with the n-gram pair T_S-T_V ;
 - otherwise:
 - for every other n-gram T_X in the string $T_{1...R}$, except S and V:
 - associating the string with a cluster associated with the n-gram triple $T_S-T_V-T_X$;
 - otherwise:
 - do nothing.
 - 2. (original) The method of claim 1 further including compiling n-gram statistics.
 - 3. (original) The method of claim 1 further including compiling n-gram pair statistics.

4. (currently amended) A method- implemented in a computer system, for clustering a plurality of strings, each string including a plurality of characters, the method including:

identifying unique n-grams in each string;

associating each string with zero or more clusters associated with low frequency n-grams from that string, ~~if any~~; and

associating each string with zero or more clusters associated with low-frequency pairs of high frequency n-grams from that string, ~~if any~~.

5. (original) The method of claim 4 further including:

where a string does not include any low-frequency pairs of high frequency n-grams, associating that string with clusters associated with triples of n-grams including the pair.

6. (currently amended) A method- implemented in a computer system, for clustering a string, the string including a plurality of characters, the method including:

identifying R unique n-grams $T_{1...R}$ in the string;

for every unique n-gram T_S :

if the frequency of T_S in a set of n-gram statistics is not greater than a first threshold:

associating the string with a cluster associated with T_S ;

otherwise:

for $i = 1$ to Y :

for every unique set of i n-grams T_U in the string $T_{1...R}$, except S :

if the frequency of the n-gram set T_S-T_U is not greater than a second threshold:

associating the string with a cluster associated with the n-gram set T_S-T_U ;

if the string has not been associated with a cluster with this value of T_S :

for every unique set of $Y+1$ n-grams T_{UY} in the string $T_{1...R}$, except S :

associating the string with a cluster associated with the $Y+2$ n-gram group T_S-T_{UY} .

7. (original) The method of claim 6 where $Y = 1$.

8. (original) The method of claim 6 further including compiling n-gram statistics.

9. (original) The method of claim 6 further including compiling n-gram group statistics.

10. (original) A computer program, stored on a tangible storage medium, for use in clustering a string, the program including executable instructions that cause a computer to:

identify R unique n -grams $T_{1...R}$ in the string;

for every unique n -gram T_S :

if the frequency of T_S in a set of n -gram statistics is not greater than a first threshold:

associate the string with a cluster associated with T_S ;

otherwise:

for every other n -gram T_V in the string $T_{1...R}$, except S :

if the frequency of n -gram T_V is greater than the first threshold:

if the frequency of n -gram pair T_S-T_V is not greater than a second threshold:

associate the string with a cluster associated with the n -gram pair T_S-T_V ;

otherwise

for every other n -gram T_X in the string $T_{1...R}$, except S and V :

associate the string with a cluster associated with the n -gram triple $T_S-T_V-T_X$;

otherwise:

do nothing.

11. (original) The computer program of claim 10 further including executable instructions that cause a computer to compile n -gram statistics.

12. (original) The computer program of claim 10 further including executable instructions that cause a computer to compile n -gram pair statistics.